Seniors: The Golden Years

As we get older we stop running and start walking.

We look at our hands and feet, when once they held a sick child, made meals, built families, constantly moving.

Now not so much, and we wonder if God can still use us, if He's done with us.

We certainly can't do what we once did, but, stop right there.

You are at the perfect place for God to still use you.

Age has no limit for God to use you.

SLIDE 2

God is still calling you by NAME

God called many people of older age in the Bible, Abraham 77, Moses at 80, Anna.

You are still a vessel to be used.

Maybe you've said, 'I've done my time, it's someone else time,

I'm tired, been there, got the wrinkles and gray hairs to prove it.'

You look at your hands, how old and feeble.

How they once cared for, loved, built, a home, a family, but now.

You may be asking God, ‘am I done?’

You may be done waiting, now God wants you to walk.

You are now on a new mission; this is your new calling.

Maybe the most important of your life,

you were made for this, don’t miss it.

There’s strength, power in wrinkles, power in gray hairs, and even a bald head.

It’s not your age it’s your obedience; you are still a vessel.

You are still breathing cause is not finished with you.

If He woke you up this morning, He has something for you to do.

You have walked to far with God to stop now.

Look what you’ve learned, years of trusting God through it all.

Your task is not smaller, it’s different.

He’s not asking you to haul, or lift the weight you cannot handle.

Your assignment is to share; the weight, the burden is lighter.

They are not a weight or a burden, they’re a blessing.

The world tells you to rest, Jesus says rest in Me.

Your wrinkles are a road map of a life, they show where you’ve been.

Your gray hairs show that you came through it with flying colors.

Your prayers are not small, they’re fuel.

Yes these are the golden years.

You are a library of God’s infinite love.

Wisdom is wealth, and only the elderly can has it.

It’s not only your words, but also your presence that show wisdom.

The youth are watching a sermon.

They may not feel the significance of it at the time,

but they will look back and know how precious unselfish,

caring, loving you were at a time when they needed it most.

What they need is exactly what you went through.

You can save their years of pain.

What they see as urgent, you know it’s patience.

Wisdom only works when it is shared, it’s not enough to keep your stories to yourself.

Your life is not a complaint it’s a reward, that’s meant to be shared.

Accept the crown, don’t hide it, show it, you’ve earned it.

It’s someone else’s growth, so they too can receive their crown.

The if only thoughts you wish you could have changed.

It’s not regret it’s refine.

Where you failed others find direction.

Pain into teaching, loss into light.

Your life preaches louder than a thousand words.

You were meant for as time as this, you were built for a time as this.

Your loss into light, where you failed others can find direction.

Pain into teaching.

They’re not only looking for advice they’re looking for examples.

They don’t need someone tell them what’s right, they need someone who’s living it.

You’re showing them what life is really all about, living it out, following Jesus, that takes precious time, prayer and peace.

Those are your words in the form of love.

SLIDE 3

God honors ENDURANCE

Wisdom isn’t just knowledge it’s presence.

Don’t hide what God brought you through, it wasn’t meant just for you.

You’re living it, it’s time to give it away.

Your role is not to persuade, but to plant, words of love.

You’re making disciples, that is the great commission.

God took you through life, you’re meant to be a blessing, even at your age.

Your prayer is not small, it’s fuel.

Your life is a ladder for others, they need direction, shown the steps to follow.

God may have more use for you now than He did when you were brining up a family,

working for you daily bread, dealing with family,

health and everything else that at that time in one’s life can bring.

You now have a clearer vision of what life means.

You are now more open to hear His voice.

Proverbs 16:31

You’ve walked through storms and survived.

You’ve climbed mountains, the younger ones have seen yet.

You’ve prayed prayers, that they don’t know how to pray.

You’ve fought battles that made you wiser, not weaker.

You’ve been through the fire and didn’t burn out.

You’ve seen God move.

Those things you went through, now they are part of you.

The younger can’t know that.

You’re not withering you’re ripening.

You’re not done.

Your mission is a lot clearer now.

You know what matters and what doesn’t,

what’s important, what’s not, what it takes.

You’ve learnt so much, that’s wisdom.

You are now free to do His will.

You can’t say I’ll do it later.

You can now be so much closer to God than you have ever been.

You can now walk with Him.

God has been building your spirit for a time such as this.

Let me tell you what God showed me.

You are now starting to taste the goodness of God.

Your life may be coming to an end, the finish line, but eternity is about to begin.

You’re getting closer to your forever.

Tell them the fire, heart aches loss, mountains, love, pain.

Your family still needs you,

your church still needs you; God still needs you.

Now is a good time to ask for forgiveness.

You've been hurt by family, friends, maybe by church folk,

been lied to, misunderstood, mistreated.

You can't walk into eternity carrying what Jesus freed you from,

what He buried.

Psalm 92:14

They will still bear fruit in old age,

they will stay fresh and green.

John 15:5

If you woke up today God still has something for you to do

Job 12:12
Is not wisdom found among the aged?
Does not long life bring understanding?

Psalm 71:18
Even when I am old and gray,
do not forsake me, my God,
till I declare your power to the next generation,
your mighty acts to all who are to come.
Psalm 78:4
We will not hide them from their descendants;
we will tell the next generation
the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD,
his power, and the wonders he has done.

Proverbs 18:21

You didn’t grow old you grew deeper.

The world gives crowns of gold; God gives crowns of gray.

Gray hairs are meant to be a crown.

You are favoured for this season.

That’s not what God thinks.

You’re in a perfect place and only you can do what He wants you to do.

There are still blessings you haven’t shared yet.

You’ve prayed too long, walked to far, carried to many burdens,

shed too many tears, gone too far with God to think it’s over.

Younger ones can’t learn that without going through what you went through.

But now you can spare them where to look for answers,

praise, comfort, that are not found in books.

Telling them not to sweat the big stuff, it’s really small stuff.

You’re speaking from years of scars, wrinkles, gray hairs, healings, faith, tears, joy,

which is more precious than gold.

Oh what you could tell them of your journey with God.

It’s not what’s behind you now, but what you can pass on now.

What you share can have eternal rewards not only for you but for someone who need not go

through what you went through, although it’s what made you you.

They can come to faith in Christ much sooner and stronger, than you did.

Your body may be weak but your prayers have never been stronger,

more heart felt, more endurance.

God doesn’t want your speed He wants your surrender.

The younger ones are standing where you once stood.

They need an anchor, a steady hand, faith.

Tell them how God provided, answered, touched, comforted, promised.

Tell them of how much of God you’ve learned.

What it means to be faithful when life tests you.

They don’t need judgment, they need direction, you too were young.

Oh how you wished someone could have shared this in your youth.

Your burdens can now become blessings that only you can share.

This could be the breakthrough that someone has been waiting for.

It’s time to pass on what you know, and not let it grow old,

don’t leave without sharing it,

you don’t need it anymore.

Your role is not shrinking, it’s striving.

You’re not to persuade but to plant, to speak.

Pray for them, even when they roll their eyes.

These are seeds, they may forget your name by the time they reach your age,

but not your care, calm, peaceful.

It could be your children, a friend, neighbour,

stranger, single mother, troubled teenager, a new parent.

You know.

It may be not only what you say, but how you listen.

You may wonder what just a conversation can do,

Jesus changed lives through moments, by wells, meals, walking.

A kind word, letter, phone call, a held hand, a prayer.

Church growth depends on seniors sharing.

God’s kingdom needs you.

God doesn’t issue retirement papers.

You may be retired, but that word is not in God’s vocabulary, not in this bible.

You’re not expired.

He’s still refining you.

You are growing stronger, not weaker.

Don’t let the world convince you your best years are behind you.

You say you can’t do what you once did, that may be true, but nobody can do what you do,

serve from your experience.

You know what it’s like to wait years for an answer,

how to hold on when life is crumbling all around you.

The cost of faithfulness.

Faith can age gracefully.

God has been waiting for you to teach what the youth need to learn, patience, love,

longsuffering, compassion, faith, hope,

Chrit’s compassion the way you serve, love, forgive.

This is your sermon, let that sink in.

Your body is slowing down, but your prayers are picking up speed..

It’s the little things that make the biggest difference, a changed life for Christ.

I’ll say that again.

It’s the little things that make the biggest difference, a changed life for Christ.

Good and faithful servant, it sounds way to easy, ya I can do that, no problem,

it used to be difficult at one time, it’s not anymore.

The world says your at the end of your life,

God says it’s harvest time my child.

What the seeds you sowed in those younger years are now coming to fruit.

You may look back with regret , failures and say,

‘What more I could have done for the Lord if only I accepted Him sooner.’

The times I should have been more patient, more loving, kind, honest.

The helping hand I wished I else’s extended, the phone call.

The faith when I should have trusted.

You can’t hold onto the past while reaching for heaven.

You must let go of everything.

God wastes nothing, not even your mistakes.

Your broken heart can now build someone’s else’s heart before it breaks.

Faith, family peace.

Tell them of the burdens,

the impossible situations you had and how God came through every time.

You've seen so much of God's grace in your life,

why wouldn't you want to share that.

They have no idea.

It's not just what you know but what you've become.

Speak it, live it, give it away feely.

You're not to run anymore but to guide those struggling through life's challenges.

Spiritual teachers not retired believers.

You are a seasoned servant.

You weren't meant to compete with them but to complete them.

Faith is not boring, it's beautiful, show them that.

It may fall on deaf ears, shrugged shoulders, rolled eyes, but over time, they will remember.

They may not remember your name, it's not about their praise,

it's about the praise of your Saviour.

That’s discipleship.

Jesus shared what God meant to Him to others, shouldn’t we?

God uses elders as guardrails to keep the youth from falling away.

If you can help just one soul find Jesus, heaven shakes, it rejoices.

Well done good and faithful servant.

It’s not what you build anymore, it’s who you build, you still have time.

You can’t carry their pain, you can share what your pain was,

and what God did through mercy and faith.

Pain is your greatest inheritance.

Holiness keeps the heart young.

Restoration is your inheritance,

Life goes so fast, a breath.

How short life is, when you look back.

- Bless the next generation before you go.

God had an assignment for you to go through life, now it shifts,

He wants you to share it.

Your life is better than a thousand sermons, you are a seasoned preacher.

You're here because someone prayed for you.

A grandmother’s prayer when she found a rat in the child’s crib of her first grandchild,

or when the child’s carriage took off down the driveway.

Those prayer she may have never seen fulfilled, I may be here because of those prayers.

You are here because someone prayed for you as well.

There are people on the straight and narrow, leading a good life, leading families,

drug free, out of prison, in ministry,

all because of someone who cared enough to cry to God for them.

When you pray God sends angels where no one can go, straight to the heart.

Your prayer keeps your heart young, strong, sharp alive, alert for the work of God.

Isaiah says those that wait on the Lord, He shall renew their strength.

They may not know what dangers they’re facing, but your prayers are already ahead of them.

Jesus prayed for you, now you are the fruit of those prayers, pray for others.

Your prayers may stumble, groan, tears, you may not know their name.

God doesn’t judge your grammar or your eloquence; He hears your heart.

You know He hears and answers prayers.

That is your power, inheritance, legacy, glory,

Right where you are.

He’s not asking you to go to a mission field, your already there.

You don’t retire; you rise.

It’s not your energy, it’s your endurance.

Everything you do in love; your sincerity reflects the love of your saviour.

Well done good and faithful servant, everything.

Your years are not waisted, they’re woven.

Don’t look back to your short comings, failures, regrets.

Jesus measures your life not moments of regrets but of mercy.

He covered them on the cross.

It’s not your perfection, but your repentance.

God can repair your past, yesterday’s pain.

God raised Jesus from the dead, He can certainly heal your past, let Him.

This is the rest He promised you.

You are the gospel without words, much more powerful.

His joy is all that you have left, His joy.

You are because someone prayed for you.

Your prayers the world may not see, but God measures it.

You may never see the fruit, God will.

The more you pray for others the closer you come to the Comforter, your Comforter.

You may have prayed for decades, but don’t stop,

they’re seeds, seeds take a long time to take hold, and a long time to fruit.

Prayer is your calling, your crown.

God has so much more for you,

He wants to thank you and bless you for your dedication, faith, obedience, pain.

All that you did, all that you went through for His kingdom.

Now is your crowning time, your blessing time, you've waited for this,

He wants to give His joy.

This will be your final blessing.

You have something much greater waiting for you, the face of Jesus forever.

Show others what it's like to serve a loving God.

Don't leave earth with it, leave it for others.

You are living proof that God loves you.

Luke 2:27

Simeon in the temple.

Anna 84 years old, she was rewarded for her years of service,

being one of the first one to see the Messiah, others couldn't see it.

Simeon praised God say,

‘Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

For my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared in the sight of all nations,

a light to the Gentiles, a glory of your people Israel.’

Anna also gave thanks to God for seeing the one whom would redeem Jerusalem.

She wasn’t preaching, she was being faithful, fasting and praying.

It makes you aware, sensitive to the moving of God.

They saw what cannot be seen, they sense a shift before it happens.

How did these 2 know, because they were waiting and looking, old age didn’t stop them.

That’s what He can do for you.

Titus ch. 2

Paul tells Titus to tell the older folks, the women to urge the younger women how to love,

the older men to encourage the younger men to do what is good,

so that in that will make in every way the teaching about God their Savior more attractive.